

HANDOUTS

- August 8, 2018 meeting minutes

PRESENTATIONS

- Response to Technical Violations Grid
- Jail Reentry Programs Recidivism
- Psychiatric Advanced Directives

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:45 am by Criminal Justice Services Director Sonya Harper

Agenda Item 1: Approval of August Minutes

Discussion: August 2018 CJAG meeting minutes presented. No corrections identified. December minutes approved as presented unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Response to Technical Violations Grid

Discussion: Jessica Ireland, Pretrial Services Program Manager, presented a revised Response to Technical Violations Grid, completed as part of the Enhancing Existing Pretrial Services strategy of the Safety + Justice Challenge, with technical assistance through a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant. Jessica shared an overview of the workgroup history and walked the CJAG through the proposed responses to both compliance and noncompliance for defendants on pretrial supervision, including providing written notice of noncompliance to the Court and allowing the presiding judge to determine whether to issue an order for arrest.

Judge Miller asked whether the Pretrial Services staff will be providing recommendations to the Court on the noncompliance notice. Jessica shared that the proposal would allow for more dialogue between the staff and the Court in cases where the defendant has been noncompliant so that the Judge has more information with which to make their decision on issuing an order for arrest. A question was raised regarding how the Court will know whether the defendant is still eligible for pretrial supervision following new criminal activity. Jessica shared that a new arrest or a new charge does not necessarily disqualify a defendant from continuing pretrial supervision. If the defendant continues to meet eligibility requirements for supervision and the Court refers the defendant back to Pretrial following a new criminal activity, Pretrial Services would continue to provide supervision and potentially consider increasing the level of supervision, if necessary. Kevin Tully shared that the Court could issue a Show Cause order to review previous conditions of release following a notice of noncompliance. Jessica shared that Pretrial Services staff had previously been revoking about 33% of the defendants on supervision prior to this technical assistance grant. To date, that has been reduced by almost 50% through soft-launching parts of this response grid without impacting the Public Safety Rate thus far. No additional concerns or objections to the grid as presented were raised.

Agenda Item 3: MCSO Jail Program Recidivism Rate Updates

Discussion: Dorian Johnson, Director of Inmate Programs for the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, presented an attached PowerPoint of some analyses on the effectiveness of the programs offered in the jail's Reentry Pod.

Dr. Strzelecki asked whether there had been interviews to identify the factors related to success. Dorian shared that they had not specifically examined the factors related to success, but anecdotally, it appears that the criminal thinking class and the support from the staff were important factors for program participants. Spencer Merriweather asked whether the program was available for pre or post adjudicated defendants. Dorian shared that due to the length of the program, if the inmate is preadjudication status, staff will wait for the outcome of the bond hearing to move the inmate to the program pod if it appears that their length of stay

will be long enough for program completion. Spencer asked about factors contributing to the 16% completion rate of the program. Dorian shared that he has been increasing staff training on the principles to work with this population to contribute to the success of the program. He also shared that client motivation is a factor contributing to success, such that clients need to be motivated to receive the supportive services and to change their behaviors. Judge Miller asked whether Dorian would recommend as an incentive of enrolling and completing the program to receive a new hearing to review release conditions. Dorian shared that he would like to start conversations with Spencer and Jessica regarding how to engage that as an option. Assistant Chief Vicki Foster asked who teaches the classes in the reentry programs. Dorian shared that a combination of MCSO staff and contracted vendors teach the material in the classes.

Dorian also shared that for participants who enter the pod in a pretrial status and leave with a disposition to probation, if program staff knew that the inmates would be released to probation, the staff could provide additional services that could help to better set the inmate up to a successful probation period. Kevin asked whether the change in the amount of medications received at discharge from 14 days to 3 days was a change by the MCSO or by Correct Care Solutions (CCS), as there are currently 3 pharmacies who will provide the refills, which is challenging for some program participants. Dorian shared that CCS changed to a 3-day pack of medications and that this change has been difficult for maintaining some of the continuum of care for some program participants. For example, when clients are moved to a residential program, often those programs require clients to have a 30-day supply of medication in hand; however, in these cases, CCS has been willing to provide the additional medications. Dr. Strzelecki shared that in his work with the Stepping Up campaign, there has been an expansion to 6 pharmacies across the county who will refill the prescriptions from CCS. Spencer shared that the DA's Office is open to considering program completion for release and giving the opportunity to participate in the program for, not all, but some defendants who would not have access to these structured services if they were released. A final question for this presentation was whether there has been any study of better understanding demographics are related to success in the program. Dorian shared that they are looking into those factors, as well as other factors that contribute to success in the program.

Agenda Item 4: Psychiatric Advanced Directives

Discussion: Marcus Boyd and Dr. Stephen Strzelecki of the Forensic Evaluations Unit presented a PowerPoint presentation on Psychiatric Advanced Directives (PAD), which is attached. Assistant Chief Foster shared that this would be useful for officers to know when responding to calls for service. She shared that she has envisioned creating a voluntary registry of residents with mental illness that could be tied into the CAD system at CMPD to assist officers responding to that address and that adding the option of whether anyone at that address has a PAD would be helpful. Chief Deputy Rodney Collins shared that the MCSO could work with Marcus and Dr. Strzelecki regarding the intersection of PADs and the work that the Sheriff's Office does with Involuntary Commitments.

Agenda Item 5: Open Discussion

Discussion: Kevin Tully shared that members have been identified to participate on the workgroup for examining delayed releases from jail, which was discussed in the June 2018 meeting.

Robyn Withrow with the District Attorney's Office shared that the statewide text notification system for court dates will go live on October 15, 2018 and that she is doing a presentation for the Public Defenders to show those staff how to sign their clients up for this service.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:57 am

MINUTES

3